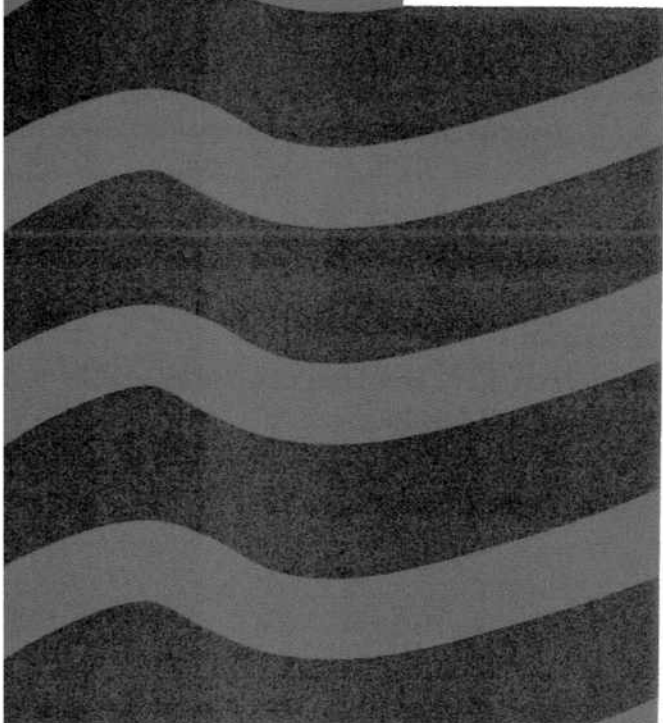
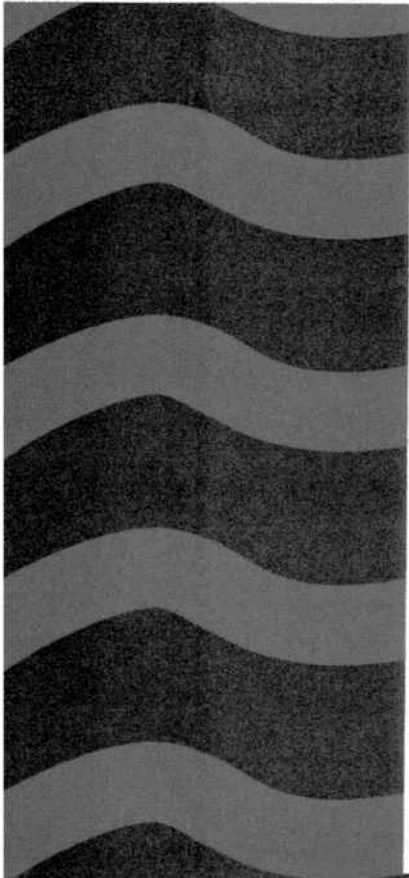
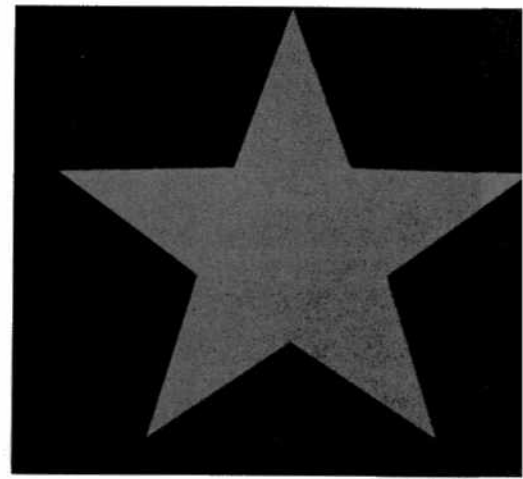


# ***SEMCOG***

***established 1968***  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments



## **SEMCOG Legislative Policy Platform 2009-2010**



\* Indicates priority issues

## Transportation Issues

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### **\* Reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU**

Transportation policies should support states with major international border crossings and trade corridors. The efficient movement of goods is critical to improving national, state, regional, and local economies.

Policies must emphasize rebuilding aging roads and bridges.

Transportation funding must be flexible to ensure that state, regional, and local needs are met.

Michigan's return on federal highway transportation dollars must continue to increase over the life of the authorization.

The significant leadership role of local elected officials in the regional transportation planning process should be maintained and enhanced.

State and federal transportation funding must increase and be more predictable and sustainable.

Program dollars must support a wide range of transportation options (walking, bikes, cars, buses, trains, trucks, etc.).

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### **Regional Public Transit**

Federal transit funding programs should emphasize support to urban areas with no or minimal rail and bus rapid transit systems.

Rail, bus rapid transit, and busses must be improved by policy, funding, and regulatory actions.

The Michigan transit funding formula should be revised to allow for increased funding to transit operators without reducing or shifting funds statewide.

Formally create a regional transportation authority through legislation.

Improve passenger access to Metro airport via public transportation (i.e., busses and rail).

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### **Amtrak**

Provide full funding for Amtrak passenger rail service.

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### **Aviation**

Support reauthorization of the Aviation Trust Fund to continue improvement of the air transportation system.

Support recommendations from the state transportation funding task force report (TF2).

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### **Road Quality**

Ensure performance and accountability in road construction and maintenance.

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### **Funding**

In the short term, increase the state and federal gas tax, diesel tax, vehicle registration fees, and enable local option taxes.

Ensure transportation revenues are used for their intended purpose.

In the long term, state and federal transportation funding must increase and be more predictable and sustainable.

Private investment in transportation infrastructure should be encouraged through support of public-private partnerships.

Work toward Southeast Michigan getting its fair share of funding through Michigan's Act 51 funding formula.



## Local Government Issues

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### \* Revenue Sharing

Honor the state's commitment to local government by fully funding both constitutional and statutory revenue sharing for local governments, including counties.

Fully reimburse local governments for costs incurred in protecting state-owned facilities under the Fire Protection Grant program.

### \* Property Taxes

Ensure that any property tax reforms do not jeopardize state and local government revenues.

Ensure that state and federal attempts to address foreclosure and other housing issues do not negatively impact local government revenues.

### Collaboration

Eliminate legislative and regulatory obstacles to consolidating and collaborating on service provision.

Provide financial incentives for local governments to pursue efficiencies and collaboration.

### Local Option Taxes

Allow local governments more flexibility to generate revenue locally, with protection of current revenue stream.

### Telecommunications

Ensure that local governments have resources to maintain rights of way.

Maintain funding for PEG (Public, Education, and Government) access.

### Mandated Expenditures

Policy development discussions at both the state and federal levels must include consideration of implementation costs.

## Environment Issues

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### Air Quality

Ensure maximum regulatory flexibility in strategies to comply with air quality standards.

### Climate Change

Preference should be given to actions that have multiple benefits (e.g., reduce energy consumption or emissions of air pollutants as well as GHGs (greenhouse gas)).

It must include both short-term actions that can realize emission reductions in a relatively short period of time, as well as longer-term actions that will require more lead time (and possibly more cost) but will eventually provide significant emission reductions.

Create a single national program that involves all states and all sectors of the economy. State and regions should not be creating their own ad hoc programs.

The state building code should enable energy efficiencies through green building practices.

### Water Quality

Enact legislation that clarifies fees as a viable option for communities to use for essential services such as water quality protection.

Increase access to drinking water revolving loan funding and state revolving loan fund for communities practicing good asset management.

A statewide sanitary code should contain flexibility due to the variations at the local level (e.g., soils, geology).

Any change in state water quality requirements must be accompanied by funding to meet new standards.

The E. coli water quality standard for total body contact, along with the resulting total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), should be reviewed as to their attainability in urban waterways.



## Environment Issues (continued)

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### Great Lakes

Obtain funding and programs to control spread of invasive species. Programs should be developed and implemented internationally.

Develop Michigan-specific plan for restoring and protecting Great Lakes, including implementation of the Great Lakes Compact.

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### Funding

A single state bond to fund environmental and natural resource protection should focus on:

- Protecting and improving water quality,
- Protecting and improving green infrastructure,
- Assisting in cleaning up stormwater,
- Meeting local needs, not on activities that should be funded through state general fund, such as environmental monitoring, and
- Supporting brownfield redevelopment for economic development purposes.

Administration of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality programs should primarily be supported using the General Fund.

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## Community and Economic Development Issues

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### Housing and Community Revitalization

Provide funding for and allow maximum flexibility and access to funds to address foreclosures, (i.e., the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008: Neighborhood Stabilization Program).

Ensure that state and federal attempts to address foreclosure and other housing issues do not negatively impact local government revenues.

Increase Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Oppose any formula change that would erode the funding base of communities currently receiving CDBG.

Increase Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund (MHCDF) funding.

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### Education and Workforce Development

Ensure that state and federal attempts to address foreclosures and other housing issues do not negatively impact school revenues.

Ensure coordination of all levels of education so that students can build upon previous educational experiences and prepare for lifelong learning.

Make education and training more affordable. Resources should first emphasize the need to have a wage earner in every household.

Provide resources to sustain industries that are major job producers, including the auto industry

Align current curriculum skills with future workforce needs.

Make early childhood education a priority.

Ensure maximum regulatory flexibility in complying with federal education standards.

Provide funding to meet federal education legislation requirements.

Enact adequate funding mechanisms for school infrastructure needs.

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## Other Issues

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### 9-1-1

Allow local governments maximum flexibility in providing 9-1-1 services.

Ensure fees supporting 9-1-1 services continue to be applied equally to land line and mobile users.

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### 2-1-1

Obtain financial support for the 2-1-1 system (Human Services Referral Network) for Southeast Michigan and the entire state.